

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

As an initial matter, the Examiner is thanked for the telephonic interview dated April 20, 2007. In response thereto, claims 23 and 24 are being canceled without prejudice. The Applicants explicitly reserved the right to file continuations to protect the subject matter of claims 23 and 24. The Examiner is also thanked for indicating the allowability of claims 1-22.

As mentioned, claims 1-11, 13, 14 and 16-22 have been amended to provide proper antecedent basis and to place them more in accordance with customary U.S. patent practice. The amendments are not intended to alter the scope of protection but are made to clarify the claims. However, the limitation "a first circular-cylindrical rod ... intersects the central axis; and a second circular-cylindrical rod ... parallel with the central axis" has been deleted from independent claim 1. As clearly evident from Figure 1, the second circular cylindrical rod is not parallel to the longitudinal axis of the implant. Moreover, such limitations are unnecessary and not required to distinguish the invention of independent claim 1 from the prior art.

No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the above Amendments is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

No fee is believed due for this submission. If, however, the Commissioner determines otherwise, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees which may now or hereafter be due in this application to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

In the event that there are any questions, or should additional information be required, please contact Applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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